

Top Secret



Central Intelligence Bulletin

State Department review completed

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20 November 1973

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Approved For Release 2004/01/20 : CIA-RDP79T00975A025600110002-4

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FRANCE: Paris shifts to strategy of flexible re-
sponse. [REDACTED]

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FRANCE: PARIS IS CONTINUING TO MOVE TOWARD A MORE FLEXIBLE NUCLEAR DOCTRINE AS TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS ENTER THE FRENCH INVENTORY.

RECENT STATEMENTS BY HIGH-LEVEL FRENCH CIVILIAN AND MILITARY OFFICIALS INDICATE THAT FRENCH NUCLEAR DOCTRINE IS EVOLVING FROM ONE BASED ON IMMEDIATE MASSIVE STRATEGIC RETALIATION TO A STRATEGY WITH VARIOUS LEVELS OF NUCLEAR RESPONSE BELOW ALL-OUT NUCLEAR EXCHANGE. THE FRENCH BELIEVE THAT EACH LEVEL HAS ITS OWN DETERRENT VALUE AND THAT A FLEXIBLE NUCLEAR DOCTRINE WILL MAKE FRANCE'S STRATEGIC DETERRENT MORE CREDIBLE TO THE SOVIETS.

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IF INITIAL BATTLEFIELD USE OF THESE WEAPONS FAILS TO PERSUADE THE AGGRESSOR TO TERMINATE THE ATTACK, [REDACTED] SAID THAT THE FRENCH WERE PREPARED TO ESCALATE TO THE LEVEL OF DEEP-PENETRATION NUCLEAR ATTACKS. INITIALLY, HOWEVER, THESE ATTACKS WOULD PROBABLY BE LIMITED TO MILITARY TARGETS FAR BEHIND THE ENEMY'S LINES. MARTIN DID NOT ELABORATE ON WHETHER HE MEANT EASTERN EUROPE OR THE WESTERN USSR, AND APPARENTLY DID NOT INDICATE WHAT WEAPONS SYSTEMS WOULD BE EMPLOYED TO CARRY OUT THE ATTACKS. HE ALSO WOULD NOT SPECIFY AT WHAT POINT FRENCH STRATEGY CALLED FOR USE OF THEIR STRATEGIC NUCLEAR WEAPONS AGAINST SOVIET POPULATION CENTERS.

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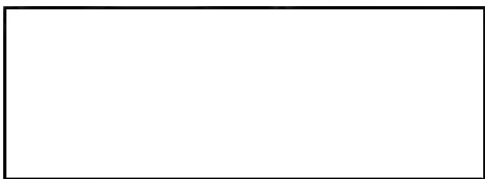
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